

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 NIC-01 PM-07

NSC-10 SS-15 DRC-01 /105 W

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R 041128Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1425

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL KARACHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 8645

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJ: WALI KHAN ALLEGES BHUTTO ARRANGED ATTEMPTED MURDER

REF: ISLAMABAD 8476

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM CONSUL PESHAWAR.

1. DURING COURSE CONVERSATION WITH CONSULATE OCTOBER 3, NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY LEADER WALI KHAN SAID HE CERTAIN THAT MEN WHO ATTEMPTED KILL HIM SEPTEMBER 28 WERE ACTING ON ORDERS FROM PRIMIN BHUTTO. IN SUPPORT HIS CONTENTION HE EXPLAINED THAT HE HAS NO PERSONAL ENEMIES, IS NOT FEUDING WITH ANYONE AND HAS EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH TENANTS ON HIS OWN LAND. FURTHERMORE, EVIDENCE HE HAS OBTAINED INDICATES NOT ONLY THAT ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION PLAN MUST HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT WITH HELP OF RADIOS BUT THAT PERSONS WHO DID THE ACTUAL SHOOTING MUST HAVE BEEN AMONG THE BEST MARKSMEN IN THE PAKISTAN ARMY. AS EVIDENCE OF ARMY INVOLVEMENT HE ALLEGED THAT ONE MAJOR BHATTI WAS AT SCENE

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OF CRIME BEFORE POLICE ARRIVED ATTEMPTING TO COVER UP

ARMY ROLE IN AFFAIR. WALI SAID 7.62 CALIBER G-3 PAKISTANI ARMY RIFLES WERE USED IN SHOOTING. NINE BULLET HOLES WERE DISCOVERED IN WINDSHIELD OF HIS VEHICLE, SEVEN OF WHICH WERE CLUMPED TOGETHER WITHIN AN INCH OF EACH OTHER.

2. WALI INDICATED HE HAS TOLD HIS FRIENDS AND PARTY FOLLOWERS THAT BHUTTO MUST HAVE ARRANGED SHOOTING. CLAIMING THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN SURGE OF RESENTMENT AMONG PATHANS AGAINST BHUTTO AS RESULT OF INCIDENT, HE SAID SOME MEMBERS HIS OWN FAMILY AND MANY OF HIS FOLLOWERS REGARD SHOOTING AS PROOF THAT PRIME MINISTER NO LONGER REGARDS WALI AS MERELY POLITICAL OPPONENT BUT AS PERSONAL ENEMY AS WELL. FOLLOWING TRADITIONAL CODE OF PATHANS, THEY NOW PREPARED TAKE THEIR REVENGE AGAINST PRIME MINISTER.

3. COMMENT: WALI GAVE IMPRESSION HE DELIGHTED TO HAVE FOUND HIGHLY EXPLOITABLE ISSUE TO AROUSE PATHANS AGAINST PRIME MINISTER. WITH EPITHET "MURDERER" NOW TO BE ADDED TO LIST OF ABUSIVE NAMES WHICH NAP AND ITS ALLIES REGULARLY HURL AT BHUTTO, THERE COULD BE HARDENING OF ATTITUDES ON BOTH SIDES IN THIS CONTINUING CONFRONTATION IN NWFP BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND ITS OPPONENTS.SANDERHOFF

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